

Boy Scouts and the Department of Defense have built over the years.

The Boy Scouts and the Department of Defense have enjoyed a unique relationship with many former Scouts joining the ranks of our nation's military. The Pentagon's recent agreement threatens this unique relationship of two organizations dedicated to one important objective: service to God and country.

I would remind my colleagues that Boy Scouts are not the only people who swear an oath to God. The fact is that our own service men and women take a similar oath before God at the beginning of their service, and I will not support any action or agreement which attempts to endanger a partnership which clearly benefits both organizations. I urge the Pentagon to reconsider its decision and to continue to support the Boy Scouts of America.

HONORING MARGARET HASSAN

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 24, 2004

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness and reflection that I rise today to honor Mrs. Margaret Hassan—a friend of the international community and a true humanitarian.

Mrs. Hassan worked in humanitarian relief in Baghdad for more than 25 years, the last 12 for CARE International as CARE Iraq's country director. She was a British citizen from an Irish family—but her husband Tahseen and her friends would attest that she was an Iraqi through-and-through. She loved the country, the people and the challenge. While others would leave, her hard work never wavered. "I'm staying with my people," she was quoted as saying. "This is my home."

I had the unique experience of talking with Mrs. Hassan about the challenges and difficulties facing the Iraqi people. We spoke at length about the people, the security and the future. While she expressed concern about the safety of the Iraqi people, she maintained a sense of optimism for the future of her adopted home. She was determined to continue her work, and her personality, courage and compassion kept her spirits high, even in the darkest of hours.

In October, the Times of London described her resiliency and courage in the face of the utmost danger. They wrote, "Even at the height of the air raids on Baghdad, she would travel around government departments in the city offering assistance to local officials who had helped her in the past and lobbying them to ensure that fresh water was available in the main hospitals" (Times Newspapers, 10/20/04). She was always working for the betterment of the Iraqi people, even when it threatened her own personal safety.

In her death, the Iraqi people have lost a hero, and the world has lost a true friend. My thoughts and prayers are with her husband, her family, her friends and the Iraqi people.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4818, CONSOLIDATED TIONS ACT, 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, November 20, 2004

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I strongly oppose H.R. 4818, the omnibus appropriations bill for fiscal year 2005. This \$388.4 billion catchall federal spending bill represents the skewed budget priorities under which the Republican House Leadership has been operating. It puts special interest priorities before the public trust and severely underfunds critical programs.

H.R. 4818 is an exclamation point on a year-long spending spree by Congress at the expense of taxpayers and future generations. Taxpayers are picking up the tab on gratuitous government spending, while essential programs are shortchanged; the bill falls short of its commitment to the No Child Left Behind program by \$9.4 billion, freezes the maximum Pell Grant for the second year in a row, and shortchanges funding for veterans' benefits and rural conservation initiatives.

Additionally, the credibility of the legislative process was compromised, as appropriators of the majority party defied procedural methods to rework the bill exactly to their liking, not to mention the liking of the White House. Appropriators handily struck backroom deals to make the following changes: to exclude a measure to allow the reimportation of prescription drugs; to override a House-passed provision to protect overtime benefits to six million employees; and to change bicameral recommendations on federal outsourcing and travel and trade relations with Cuba.

Also, it concerns me that just last week we had to raise the debt limit for the third time in the past several years to an astounding \$8.2 trillion. Moreover, it worries me that we had to raise the debt limit because of irresponsible fiscal policy such as giving tax cuts to the Nation's millionaires while our country is fighting a war overseas and my home State of Wisconsin is hemorrhaging manufacturing jobs.

The proponents of the fiscal year 2005 Omnibus have touted it as a package of real programs that benefit real people. This bill is an insult to the principles of this democratic body, and what I want to know is when the special interest spending spree will cease and real people will again be the priority.

We need to start making decisions that will leave our children a better country to inherit. As the father of two little boys, I did not come to Congress to leave my sons a legacy of debt, hurt economic growth, and make this country more dependent on foreign nations, who are currently the largest holders of our debt. By 2014, American families will pay an additional \$9,400 in interest on the national debt. That same year, the Social Security Trust Fund will be completely depleted if this Congress's reckless fiscal policies continue unchecked.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly oppose the fiscal year 2005 omnibus bill. I cannot in good faith support such fiscal recklessness because there is no plan to restore fiscal responsibility in the future as we rapidly approach the Baby Boom generation's impending retirement. The American people deserve no less than a gov-

ernment that applies the same fiscal responsibility that any hard-working American family would in crafting a household budget.

A TRIBUTE TO JOELLE BAILEY

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 24, 2004

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Joelle Bailey for her accomplishments in the field of business and efforts to improve the manners of all people in our community.

Joelle has over 20 years experience in catering, event planning and the restaurant business. Little did she know that a position at Essence Magazine would serve as the impetus for her to enter the food and hospitality industry. At a very young age, Joelle's mom Marie felt very strongly about manners and etiquette and instilled those values in Joelle and her sister Yves. Joelle has taken these values and turned them into a lifetime mission not only for herself but to assist and instruct others in these areas.

Joelle has learned through some of the best working positions at the Vista Hilton, Marriott and Plaza Hotels and LSG Sky Chefs. She received her formal training at the French Culinary Institute and Sky Chefs. By 1994, she opened Classic Catering which is a full service event planning and catering business that caught the attention of the New York Times, Daily News, NY Post, 98.7 KISS FM and WOR 710. In June 2004, Joelle was featured in the Daily News' "Spotlight On Great People" by Clem Richardson. Publicity aside, Joelle is pleased that her clients and guests approve of her fabulous catering and cooking skills. Currently, Joelle writes several columns, sharing her knowledge on entertaining, etiquette and menu and recipe suggestions. Some of Joelle's most memorable clients have included: The New York Urban League, Diana Ross, Mt. Sinai Hospital, Russell Simmons, Suzanne Taylor, The United Way, Bill Cosby, Children's Television Network, Jackie Robinson Foundation, New York Bar Association, New York University, Columbia University and many more.

Joelle shares her love for young people by teaching courses in the art of etiquette, table manners, sophistication, food, nutrition and basic "101" cooking skills. She teaches these classes for the community in different schools and also in her home. Each event is sponsored with her own personal finances. Adults are welcome as well. Additionally, her very own etiquette/cookbook will be launched next year and a food show is in the works.

On her son Issiah's 3rd birthday March 27, 2004 Joelle launched a not-for-profit foundation called Issiah W. Simms Foundation to help children improve their etiquette and manners. Eight years ago, Joelle realized that she was not satisfied with the etiquette and manners of today's children, teens and even adults. For her, there was a major state of emergency existing in society that needed to be addressed. This concern led her to form the Issiah W. Simms Foundation.

Joelle is fortunate to have wonderful and insightful parents Hubert and Marie Valbrun, mentors (stepmother, Rosette Wayne), teachers and friends who are supportive of her

work. She has a degree in Liberal Arts from Pace University and an MBA from Liberty University. She dreams of opening a finishing school that would be free to her Brooklyn community.

Mr. Speaker, Joelle Bailey has been a leader in our community through her entrepreneurial accomplishments and efforts to create a more civil society. As such, she is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable person.

**A TRIBUTE TO THE COMMUNITY
OF CORONA DEL MAR ON THE
OCCASION OF ITS CENTENNIAL
CELEBRATION**

HON. CHRISTOPHER COX

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 24, 2004

Mr. COX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the community of Corona del Mar on the occasion of its centennial celebration. Residents, community leaders, and City officials have been planning the communitywide celebration of this historic anniversary for the last 2 years. It is with great pleasure that I recognize today the entire Corona del Mar citizenry for the outstanding quality of life, arts, education, and rich history that has made this area one of the most sought after places to live in America.

On June 29, 1904, George E. Hart, a Los Angeles real estate mogul, signed an agreement with the Irvine Company for the purchase of a 706-acre corner of Irvine Ranch. In early July 1904, the transaction of this sale and ownership was officially recorded with the County of Orange, and the village of Corona del Mar was born.

A grand celebration recently brought together the entire community in a citywide celebration to honor the 100th birthday of Corona del Mar, as well as to plan for the future.

The official Centennial Celebration, which began with an official launch event and gala art show, culminated with the Centennial Celebration on the weekend of October 14–17, 2004 in Corona del Mar.

I would like to commend the Corona del Mar Centennial Foundation and Organizing Committee for its dedicated commitment to plan a first class, year-long communitywide celebration honoring this important time in Corona del Mar's history. Certainly the village itself, and the people who live in it, deserve the very best. It is an honor to represent Corona del Mar in the United States House of Representatives.

ELECTION IN UKRAINE

HON. JO ANN DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 24, 2004

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, 2 months ago, this House overwhelmingly passed H. Con. Res. 415 regarding the October 31 Presidential elections about to be held in the Ukraine.

During the floor debate on that resolution, I noted that the development of a strong de-

mocracy in the Ukraine has been slow and difficult over the past 13 years. In recognizing this fact, I stated that no issue would be more important to the Ukraine's future standing with the West than the test its democracy was about to face in that Presidential election. I said that in many ways the election represented a historic opportunity for the people of the Ukraine to decide whether or not democracy can flourish in this important nation.

Those elections did take place on October 31. Since no candidate received over 50 percent of the votes, a runoff election was just held this past Sunday. Regrettably, and despite every effort we were told would be made by the Government for a free and fair election, the rhetoric was not matched by the actions and the elections seemed to have been seriously flawed.

A preliminary assessment of the elections conducted by the International Election Observation Mission (IEOM), consisting of representatives from the OSCE, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the European Parliament and the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, indicated that the second round of the presidential election did not meet a considerable number of internationally accepted standards for democratic elections. The IEOM report listed election day violence, intimidation of voters and observers, suspiciously high voter turnout in some regions, problems with ballot counting and the addition of several hundred thousand absentee ballots.

In a statement issued by Senator RICHARD LUGAR who was observing the elections as the representative of President Bush, the Senator reported that it was apparent that a concerted and forceful program of election day fraud and abuse was enacted with either the leadership or cooperation of government authorities.

Mr. Speaker, this is disappointing and unacceptable news from the Ukraine. It seems incomprehensible to me that with the rocky relationship the West has had at times with the outgoing leadership in Kiev that the new President of the Ukraine would want to spend the next 5 years under a cloud of legitimacy as a result of an unfair electoral process.

Mr. Speaker, we in the Congress have long supported building a stable, democratic, and prosperous nation in the Ukraine and have tried to work with those individuals and organizations who shared our goals. Unfortunately, and regrettably, the conduct of these recent elections suggests that many in Ukraine's current government have not yet committed themselves to this goal and lack the political will to do so.

As chairwoman of the Europe Subcommittee I believe I can speak for the House in expressing our deep disappointment with the conduct of these recent elections and our concerns for the Ukraine's future. We join with the Bush administration in calling on the current President of the Ukraine, the Rada and the Supreme Court to conduct a thorough review of these elections and investigate the charges of mass fraud before any certification of the results is made. At the very least, it may be necessary to hold new elections in those cities or regions where the fraud was most blatant. We also call on all sides of the dispute to exercise restraint and avoid violence. Finally, if the dispute is not resolved in support of the democratic process, then I believe the Bush administration must begin a review of

our relations with the Ukraine and take whatever actions may be necessary to express our displeasure with the actions of the Ukraine government and its leaders.

A TRIBUTE TO ROSA CALHOUN

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 24, 2004

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Rosa Calhoun in recognition of her accomplishments in her field of business and commitment to the community.

Rosa was born in Brooklyn, New York, the second child of Ruby Calhoun. Her daughter, Saretta, and her son, Dominique, are Rosa's pride and joy.

Rosa graduated from Clara Barton Vocational High School where she enhanced her talent in hair care by specializing in weaving and hair cutting. She has received many trophies because of these specialties.

Rosa has been in business for 30 years and participated in many fashion shows as "Top Hair Designer". She worked with and received many awards and certificates from The Hilton, Leviticus, Coliseum, and the Bronner Brother in Atlanta for her outstanding expertise in the field of hair styling. She was featured in 1986 "Shop Talk" and the 1998 "Essence" magazines.

Rosa has an active member of the Berean Baptist Church for 7 years. She is a member of the Berean Choir and the Hospitality Committee. In addition, Rosa is a member of the Aurelia Chapter #724 Order of Eastern Stars. She is a potential candidate for the Central Brooklyn Lions Club and the Negro Business and Professional Women's Inc. where she plans to serve as a member. Today, Rosa continues to strive for excellence in hair care. She enjoys working within the community where she grew up. Her love for hair styling has led her to achieve and attain all of her goals in her professional career.

Mr. Speaker, Rosa Calhoun, a Brooklyn native, has been a consistently positive force in her community through her business efforts, church and other civic activities. As such, she is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable person.

**RECOGNIZING LUPUS
INTERNATIONAL**

HON. CHRISTOPHER COX

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 24, 2004

Mr. COX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call this Congress' attention to a devastating disease that affects millions of Americans. Systematic Lupus Erythematosus, commonly known as lupus, is a chronic, complex, and often life-threatening autoimmune disease. It causes the immune system to become hyperactive and attack the body's own tissue, damaging vital organs which can lead to severe disability or death.

Research shows that 1.5 million people are afflicted with lupus in the United States—more